

Progress Report

To: Natalia Deardorff, Department of Water Resources
From: Robert Stein, City of Newport Beach
Re: Integrated Regional Water Management Plan – Newport Bay Watershed
DWR Agreement Number 46-0000-4498

Progress Report for November 1, 2006 to January 31, 2007

Date: March 15, 2007

Program Status

Important progress has been made in the past period. In preparation for producing the IRWMP, staff is now working with watershed stakeholders to set up a process to identify those projects and programs that can produce the greatest ecosystem benefits for the watershed. This report summarizes important activities performed in this period. A chart showing task progress is attached.

Task 2.4.2.1 Review Existing Studies and Programs

The City has obtained and reviewed the recent studies and reports prepared for the Newport Bay Watershed. A list of these reports is attached.

Task 2.4.2.2 Survey of Local Planning Efforts

The City has continued with watershed stakeholder meetings including the County of Orange RDMD, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Irvine Company, Irvine Ranch Water District, and University of California – Irvine to discuss ongoing studies and program and to review the City's scope of work under this DWR grant. Additional meeting are scheduled with the Cities of Tustin, Irvine and Lake Forest, as well as the Newport Bay Naturalists. Meetings are also anticipated with the Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game and other agencies.

Task 2.4.2.3 Presentation of Findings to WSC Group and WEC

An informal meeting has been conducted with WSC Group members.

Task 2.4.2.4 Preparation of Policy and Prioritization Guidelines

No work on this task occurred during this period.

Task 2.4.2.5 GIS Subcommittee

Discussions have been held with the County, SCRIPPS, SWRCB and consultants on what is the appropriate platform that can compile the data and make it readily useful. While SWAMP and SCCOOS have systems in development, these are very expensive and the utility of these systems for the average scientific user may not be high. Further discussions are planned.

Task 2.4.2.6 GIS Database Expansion

No work on this task occurred during this period.

Task 2.4.2.7 Web Site Development

No work on this task occurred during this period.

Task 2.4.3.1 Lower Newport Bay Management Plan

A consultant scope of work for the Harbor Area Management Plan (HAMP) was prepared (see attached). Consultant proposals were received on March 14 and will be reviewed by committee. The top proposer will be invited to come in and negotiate a contract with the City.

Task 2.4.3.2 Upper Newport Bay Management Plan

The County of Orange is the lead on preparing a plan for upper Newport Bay. The City, Upper Newport Bay Naturalists and other stakeholders are coordinating with the County on this effort. One of the tasks in the HAMP (Task 1) is a review of previous work on a management plan and to provide recommendations for additional biological assessments, habitat restoration and public usage to meet the future needs of DFG and the City.

Task 2.4.3.3 – San Diego Creek Watershed Strategic Plan

Staff will be going to City Council on March 27 to ask Council to award a consultant contract for preparation of the Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) that will include the San Diego Creek sub-watershed area. The consultant will be charged with preparing a 'streamlined' IRWMP by August 1, 2007. This will provide the foundation for the final IRWMP to be prepared in the Task 2.4.3.4.

Task 2.4.3.4 - Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan

No work on this task occurred during this period.

Budget

Three consultant contracts totaling \$75,000 have been executed. Two more contracts totaling approximately \$325,000 are expected to be awarded in the next 30 days.

Schedule

While very good progress continues to be made, the City anticipates that additional time past the contract deadline of January 2, 2008 will be needed to complete all the tasks under Tasks 2.4.3. A 6-month extension will be requested.

Attachments:

Task Progress Chart

List of Important Watershed Reports

HAMP Request for Proposals